

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 32, 35 and 41 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 32, 35 and 41, which are independent, are hereby amended. Claims 5, 9-31, 33, 34, 36-40, 42 and 43 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter. No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claim 32, which was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite, has been amended thereby obviating the rejection.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-20, 24-27, 30, 32, 33, 35, 39 and 41-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,917,472 to Perala (hereinafter, merely "Perala") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,842 to Kirk, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Kirk").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A display control apparatus...

selecting means for selecting at least a portion of said content information as a function of a corresponding designation by at least two of said plurality of cursors; and

wherein each cursor has a predetermined priority value which can be varied at a subsequent use;

wherein said selection of content information is determined by a decision weighted with said priority value of said cursors; and

wherein each cursor changes to a different shape or color before each cursor's position is established on said linking information.” (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Perala relates to a system that is usable by at least two persons (owner and customer) in connection with an application which does not support multiple mice or multiple cursor presentations. Each person has a respective mouse and the customer is permitted to participate in the operation of the application, at least to the extent of being able to point to objects on the screen by means of a cursor.

As understood by Applicants, Kirk relates to a system and method for providing shared access to a three-dimensional virtual environment synchronously with hypertext browsing. A cospace server receives a request from a client, tracks the requests, and stores components of the requested files. When a certain threshold of users has requested a file, the cospace server constructs a three-dimensional room description and sends it to the clients that are browsing the file.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Perala or Kirk, taken either alone or in combination that would teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1.

Specifically there is no teaching or suggestion of a display control apparatus wherein each cursor has a predetermined priority value which can be varied at a subsequent use, said selection of content information is determined by a decision weighted with said priority value of said cursors and each cursor changes to a different shape or color before each cursor's position is established on said linking information, as recited in independent claim 1.

Indeed, Kirk discloses on column 11, lines 14-19 "that group followers can collaboratively decide where to proceed next (which hypertext file to request next) by voting. A follower or the leader proposes a list of next hypertext files or links to select, and each follower votes on which to select." According to the above citation and also according to pages 6-7 of the Office Action, "all the users have the same priority...everyone has the same voting rights." However, in the present invention, each cursor has a predetermined priority value which can be varied at a subsequent use and selection of content information is determined by a decision weighted with said priority value of said cursors.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 32, 35 and 41 are also believed to be patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

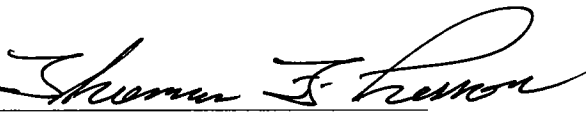
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800